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GOVERNMENT TO ISSUE MORE CORRENCY AGAINST INFLATION

PY270204 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 26 Dec 79 PY

[Text] President Joao Figueiredo today requested congressional approval for the issuance of 50 billion cruzeiros earmarked by the National Monetary Council [CMN] to meet the country's production needs and to promote the distribution of national wealth.

Finance Minister Karlos Rischbieter said that the CMN adopted the aforementioned measure in view of the growing inflationary trends that would soon exert intolerable pressure on monetary and credit expansion. He added that the government's anti-inflation policy is being gradually revised and that these readjustments made it necessary to issue currency in amounts larger than those previously estimated.

Minister Rischbieter added that Brazil will have to secure between $14 and $16 billion to bring its trade balance to a point of equilibrium in 1980. Commenting on the difficulties stemming from oil price increases, he said that the country will begin 1980 with greater uncertainty than 1979. He noted that there is no sign of panic or anguish concerning Brazil among its international partners. He regarded this year's oil crisis as more important and more serious than that of 1973. He considered the evolution of oil prices that culminated with the splitting of the oil cartel as the most significant event of the year for the Brazilian economy.

DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH ST LUCIA ESTABLISHED

PY262326 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 26 Dec 79 PY

[Excerpts] In a note released today, the Foreign Ministry reports that Brazil has established diplomatic relations at the embassy level with St Lucia. In 1978, Brazilian exports to St Lucia amounted to $60,000, while its imports were nil.

BRIEFS

EXPORTS TO PRC--The Persico Pizzamiglio Company has signed a contract to export to the PRC 30,277 tons of seamed steel pipes which can be used for carrying water or gas. The same company had previously sent 5,000 tons of these pipes to the PRC for examination. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 21 Dec 79 p 29 PY]

PROJECTS WITH ARGENTINA--Brasilia (O GLOBO)--Brazil and Argentina will set up two binational private enterprises to exploit iron ore and manganese in the Urucu region, Mato Grosso, according to a proposal submitted to the Argentine Government by Finance Minister Karlos Rischbieter. Another project which is now under study deals with setting up a shipping pool system to export Brazilian iron ore and Argentine wheat to the Middle East. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO 20 Dec 79 p 31 PY]

ALCOHOL PROGRAM BUDGET--The National Alcohol Council has approved a 54-billion cruzeiro budget for the National Alcohol Program in 1980. These funds will be used to finance sugarcane plantations, distilleries and research and the purchase of sugarcane and other raw materials. [Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 21 Dec 79 PY]

ISLAND DISPUTE WITH NICARAGUA INCREASES TENSION

PA262021 Paris AFP in Spanish 1847 GMT 26 Dec 79 PA

[By Farid Camel]

[Text] Bogota, 26 Dec (AFP)--A dispute between Colombia and Nicaragua over possession of the Colombian island of San Andres and three nearby keys in the Caribbean appeared to harden today with increased naval patrolling and the possible expulsion of hundreds of Nicaraguans from the area.

Reliable sources told AFP by phone that tension is increasing among residents of San Andres Island and Roncador, Serrana and Quitasueno keys in view of the claim by the Managua government of sovereignty over them. Colombia was given possession of the islands in 1928.

According to the sources, the islands' authorities have given all foreign residents, mainly Nicaraguans, until 5 January to legalize their permanence or face deportation.

The Nicaraguan population exceeds 1,000, many of them having arrived in San Andres following the overthrow of dictator Anastasio Somoza. Some of them, former National Guard members, later left for exile in other countries.

The sources noted that three submarines, a dozen Colombian Air Force planes and several naval units were mobilized to go to the area although there is still no threat of force by Nicaragua.

Together with the mobilization announcements, Nicaraguan Defense Minister Daniel Ortega told the Colombian Caracol radio network from Managua that his country reiterates its rights over the islands and keys but rejected the idea of violence to achieve its objective.

Ortega declared that the areas in dispute were donated to Colombia by former treacherous rulers and insisted that the national reconstruction government will seek the support of international courts to recover them.

Ortega emphasized the Nicaraguan people's antiwar nature and his country's scarce stock of weapons.

We have not noticed the (Colombian) mobilization; it appears to be aimed at frightening the Nicaraguan people, Ortega added.

The claims by the Nicaraguan junta last week stirred strong reactions here from various political figures, such as Foreign Minister Diego Uribe and former Foreign Minister Alfredo Vasquez.

Both pointed to Colombia's indisputable sovereignty over San Andres and the keys since 1928, when they were ceded by Nicaragua.

San Andres in fact is considered a tourist paradise in Latin America. Most of its inhabitants are of British descent.

Meanwhile, an official statement is expected from the government, and on Wednesday the newspapers published many stories concerning the new boundary differences.

PAPER SEES THREAT TO CANAL SECURITY FROM SHAH'S PRESENCE

PA230111 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 21 Dec 79 p 4-A PA

[Article by Luis Restrepo Rosas: "Another Angle"]

[Text] When Panama granted asylum to the former Iranian monarch, President Carter must surely have consulted his close political and military advisers. White House advisers must have worked themselves to exhaustion preparing the correct documents. Every development since 1904 connected with Panamanian-U.S. relations must have been researched in the State Department's secret files on Panama. Pentagon intelligence officers, strategists and analysts must have examined the details of the military protection that would be provided the shah--who would shortly leave the United States--during his trip to the isthmus as well as [on his arrival here].

They did not realize that the sending of Mr Pahlavi to Panama gave this problem a new angle which they should have kept very much in mind before making a final decision. The State Department and Pentagon analysts forgot Spanish Admiral Carrero Blanco, Lord Mountbatten, the Irish Republican Army, the ETA and the corps of organized international mercenaries who are trained and financed precisely by the CIA. These mercenaries have been used extensively in the Congo, Angola and South Africa. Well, on Contadora Mr Pahlavi has unexpectedly become a huge explosive charge placed by the United States itself at the Pacific entrance to the Panama Canal.

There is talk in Washington now about the canal's vulnerability, something they should have considered before sending Mr Pahlavi to Contadora. The orders issued by the president of the Islamic court in connection with the brigades that must execute Mr Pahlavi have alarmed Washington because the sentenced man is now very close to one of the most sensitive areas in the U.S. defense system.

Oh, What Fear!

When the Panama-U.S. treaty negotiations were at their most delicate stage, thousands of U.S. troops arrived in the former Canal Zone under the pretext of conducting jungle maneuvers. But their mission was really to be in the isthmus in case violence erupted. A radar system covering the entire canal area was installed. Special computers were installed at the southern command operations center. It was felt that total protection of the colonial enclave had been achieved with these electronic installations and personnel.

The Panamanian National Guard simultaneously conducted its own maneuvers and called them "operation Oh, What Fear!" Using the almost invisible paths of rabbits, deer and cougars, the Panamanian soldiers evaded vigilance and when the foreigners realized it, they were already on the edge of the canal, while the astonished Yankees could only hear the expression "Oh, What Fear...!"

The "Pompeya"

Alberto Vasquez Figueroa has written a science fiction novel entitled "Panama, Panama!" Vasquez Figueroa skillfully wove a plot about blowing up the canal. The genius in the book manages to organize a group of determined mercenaries who arrive in Cristobal in a battered boat, the "Pompeya." The boat contains several tons of dynamite controlled by a computer whose code cannot be deciphered by even the most distinguished electronics experts. At the right moment the Pompeya explodes, closing the canal.

According to reports published here the Pentagon is concerned over the present situation. The orders issued by Judge Sadeq Khalkhali are pertinent. The suicide squads may or may not exist. But the warning must not be ignored.

Pentagon spokesmen have announced that Panama and the United States have adopted joint military measures to protect the canal. Nevertheless, this is another angle to the problem Mr Pahlavi's presence on Contadora poses for our country. According to an Associated Press report datelined Washington, "U.S. officials have told Congress that, due to its vulnerability, it cannot be guaranteed the canal will continue to operate in an uninterrupted manner."

OPPOSITION ACCUSES U.S. OF INTERVENTION

PA222145 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 22 Dec 79 pp 1, 8-16 PA

[Text] Groups opposed to the national government yesterday deplored the National Guard's attitude toward the demonstrators who this week have been protesting the presence of former Iranian monarch Mohammad Reza Pahlavi in Panama.

Although the opposition members are not against the right of asylum, they believe the presence of the former Iranian shah in Panama endangers "all Panamanian embassies and consulates, particularly those in Europe" as well as ships and planes carrying our flag.

The National Opposition Front [FRENO] had scheduled a news conference yesterday but this was postponed due to the death of former President Max del Valle, a prominent political figure of the Republican Party. The Republican Party is a member of FRENO.

Despite the postponement of the news conference, several members of FRENO decided to make statements to the domestic and foreign press. These members included Yolanda Crespo de Valdes, Dr Osvaldo Velasquez, Jose Manuel Faundes, Milciades Ortiz Jr, Carlos Enrique Adames, Carlos Ernesto Gonzalez de la Lastra and Thelma King. They described the chief of the Panamanian National Guard as a "dictator." They also presented Victor Navas King to the newsmen to show how he was beaten by the National Guard.

Navas King removed his shirt and showed wounds he said were inflicted by National Guardsmen during the demonstration in front of the Don Bosco Church Thursday.

The members of the opposition also reported on the bad condition of Miguel A. Bernal, who was beaten during the disturbances.

They criticized U.S. President Jimmy Carter. Yolanda Crespo de Valdes described Gen Omar Torrijos as "the Pentagon's man."

They said the U.S. Government is responsible for the former shah's presence in Panama and they deplored what they described as "U.S. intervention" in the country. They said the former Iranian shah is a "problem of President Carter and his government and Panama should have never gotten involved to help Jimmy Carter's reelection campaign."

BRIEFS

NEW CAPAC PRESIDENT--Hector I. Ortega, an engineer, has been elected new president of the Panamanian Construction Chamber [CAPAC] to replace Dominador B. Bazan. [Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 22 Dec 79 pp 1-A, 8-A PA]

COSTA RICA

PRESIDENT INCREASES TAXES; PROTEST EXPECTED

PA211953 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Dec 79 PA

[By Eduardo Castro]

[Text] San Jose, 20 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--New taxes amounting to $54.6 million become effective today in Costa Rica in an attempt by President Rodrigo Carazo's government to meet a $406.9-million deficit in 1980. The announcement was made Wednesday night by the president, who pointed out that the new taxes were decreed by the executive branch in face of legislative assembly opposition to the so-called "tax package" introduced by the government weeks ago, but which has not yet been passed.

The taxes affect the prices of gasoline, liquor, beer, cigarettes, soda pop, coffee exports and the price of automobiles. Gasoline went up $0.23 to $2.34 per gallon. It was also decided to tax coffee exports when these achieve "acceptable" prices on the international markets.

Opposition deputies had previously announced they would not approve the new taxes since they consider that rather than putting more tax loads on the people, the government should observe austerity in its expenditures.

Carazo pointed out that it was absolutely necessary to approve the new taxes this very year and that the deputies will return to session (they are now on end-of-year vacations) in 1 month. "All the efforts of the government [bloc] deputies who have truly understood their duty have been in vain. The constant efforts of the finance minister have also been in vain. All the arguments expressed through every means have not helped to convince the opposition deputies that an approval of tne tax reform would be a long step toward helping people in lower-income brackets," said Carazo. He maintained: "I assume with determination the inherent responsibility" to order the tax raise without legislative authorization."

Carazo reiterated that the Costa Rican currency, the colon, would not be devaluated. Government officials had said that unless the new taxes were approved, devaluation would be certain. "There will be no devaluation. The colon will continue at the same rate of exchange. You can wait for the new year in peace. There will be no devaluation," the president assured.

He also charged that many persons had drawn their deposits in dollars out of the banks in order to wait for the devaluation and profit from it, but all they got was a loss of interest. In addition, he charged that some people are fostering inflation. "I know that people who think like this forget social peace and the well-being of the people only to seek personal profit," the president remarked.

Carazo disclosed that the economic plan that went into effect on this day was approved by the IMF. As part of an adjustment program, a standby loan of $71.5 million in special drawing rights was requested from the IMF. The purpose is to reduce to "manageable" amounts the checking account deficit and the deficit of the public sector. These provisions are made for the end of 1981.

Concluding, Carazo announced that any new increase in government expenses must be backed by new taxes in order to prevent an increase in the fiscal deficit. Carazo's decision to increase revenues without the authorization of the legislative branch is expected to cause a wave of rejection by opposition political groups. There has been no reaction yet from the business sector.

Radio Station Criticism

PA212008 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 21 Dec 79 PA

[Station commentary]

[Text] The little Christmas gift that President Carazo gave Costa Ricans has confused many, worried others and annoyed most of the people. It can be said that there is more discomfort than happiness because of Carazo's measure in trying to continue to rule through decrees, particularly when these decrees are in such bad taste as [words indistinct]. We did not analyze this yesterday when we commented on the same topic, but we want to discuss this today: the attitude of Costa Ricans regarding the national budget.

For more than 20 years we have been worried about the attitude of the Costa Ricans regarding the national budget. The administrations, in order to go down in history as good governments, have gradually increased the budgets. They try to satisfy the people's demands for more jobs and projects from the central government. The budget keeps increasing not so much because the government is offering more services but because the people and the employees keep demanding higher salaries and the communities keep requesting more subsidies.

We believe that this is the main reason for the permanent crisis, the disorder and the budget anarchy we are experiencing. In the 23 years we have been writing, analyzing and reporting, we have not yet found a single government which was interested in putting our national budget in order.

The deputies, the parties and the political leaders are all seeking to meet the demands of the people who are trying to live off the national budget. They all want to get higher salaries and keep demanding more subsidies. This crisis continues to worsen and the administrations see no other alternative than increasing taxes.

EL SALVADOR

UNGO EXPLAINS JUNTA'S DIFFICULTIES WITH LEFT

PA230150 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0102 GMT 20 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 19 Dec (EFE)--The Salvadoran Government junta is being harassed by the economic and political right and attacked by leftist revolutionary groups, said junta member Guillermo Ungo today. In an interview published by the leftist progovernment newspaper EL DIA, Ungo conceded that many doubts exist concerning the junta's actions, especially after "so many decades of control, authoritarianism and repression."

He added that the government junta has become a sort of suggestion box for demands, labor grievances and proposals from sectors which until recently had no way of expressing themselves. In this respect, he pointed out the difficulty in "facing the deep structural reforms which are required in the country while at the same time solving the circumstantial demands, the immediate requirements.

The Salvadoran leader added that the junta has not reached an agreement with the leftist groups because they believe a revolutionary situation exists in El Salvador, whereas the junta believes this is not the case.

According to Ungo, the Salvadoran Government's program is based on the need to "displace the oligarchic power" entrenched in the agricultural export industry. Therefore, an agrarian reform is being drafted in El Salvador "which will affect the whole country and every crop," while at the same time displacing the "oligarchs" from the management of the foreign trade which is based on the export of coffee.

Ungo reaffirmed that the strategy of a "prolonged people's war" adopted by the Salvadoran revolutionary groups is wrong since the correlation of forces still favors the right. He compared his country's situation to that which existed in Nicaragua before Somoza's fall and emphasized that the Salvadoran bourgeoisie is "strong and overbearing, which does not insure the revolutionary conditions for a broad alliance," whereas the Nicaraguan bourgeoisie "was very weak." He added that neither can one make a comparison with the Sandinist National Liberation Front because the Salvadoran revolutionary sectors "require much more unity and greater strength in the alliance of sectors and organizations."

Referring to the role of the armed forces, Ungo said a peaceful Salvadoran democratization process cannot be made without the participation of the army "or at least a large sector" of that army. In Ungo's opinion, the coup against Gen Carlos Humberto Romero's government was in a way "a survival movement directed at saving the armed forces from a process which could have led them into a catastrophe" while at the same time the situation itself promoted "a democratic recovery." He added that if rightist military groups tried to return to the past, this could lead to a division of the armed forces due to the "youth current" in the armed forces.

On the assertion that the Salvadoran junta is part of the U.S. strategy to "contain" revolutionary movements, Ungo called the allegations unjust because a similar analysis could be made of Nicaragua: it wants the process not to overstep certain bounds but those bounds are always expanding...," he said.

Armed Forces To Maintain Order

PA211932 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1904 GMT 21 Dec 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 21 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--The Salvadoran Defense Ministry officials today, Friday, reiterated that the armed forces will maintain peace and order in this country in compliance with its constitutional mandate.

Colonels Jose Guillermo Garcia and Nicolas Carranza, defense minister and vice minister, respectively, told workers protesting the burning of their stores by leftwing agitators in the last 48 hours, that the Salvadoran Army wants changes, but like the demonstrators' aspirations, will make them in a climate of peace and work. They noted that the people's support is necessary for such changes to be effected.

The Salvadoran authorities received many messages of support today. They exhorted the workers to take action against ultraleftwing groups who, according to some of the demonstrators, have destroyed the work centers of thousands of Salvadorans.

TWO CUSTOMS AGENTS WOUNDED IN ATTACK

PA270105 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2233 GMT 26 Dec 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 26 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--Two customs agents at the Agua Caliente post, 68 km north of this capital, were wounded while repulsing an attack by a group of armed men. Agua Caliente is a small town in the northern Department of Chalatenango.

It is believed the group of extremists intended to steal the weapons from the agents assigned to this (?post). They [presumably the wounded agents] affirmed that the attackers numbered approximately 30 men. The attackers carried machetes, pistols and rifles. The wounded customs agents are Domingo Villalta and Jose David Cruz Bustillo. They were admitted to the San Salvador military hospital.

FPL CLAIMS CREDIT FOR ATTACK ON POLICE STATION

PA220055 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0005 GMT 22 Dec 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 21 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--The Farabundo Marti Popular Liberation Forces (FPL) today issued a communique claiming responsibility for the attack on the Salvadoran National Police headquarters in the El Palmar section of Santa Ana. The operation was called "war on evictions and massacres." The communique adds that the fighters withdrew without suffering any casualties.

The FPL explained that the action was in response to recent evictions at Telediario Salvadoreno, El Refugio Estate and other properties.

However, no group has yet claimed credit for the attack on the police post in El Zacamil neighborhood.

Meanwhile, the Movement of Revolutionary High School Students (MERS) today occupied eight schools through the country to demand unrestricted admissions, a halt to repression and the release of university student Jose Roberto Morales Bolanos.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENTS, RESIGNATIONS--Dr Pablo Mauricio Alvergue, the new ambassador to Costa Rica, was sworn in yesterday. He replaces Dr Francisco Bertrand Galindo, who has become ambassador to Guatemala. The Foreign Ministry also announced the resignations of Alvaro Ernesto Martinez, ambassador to Italy; Col Luis Roberto Flores, ambassador to Spain; Dr Sidney Mazzinni, ambassador to the OAS and Col Agustin Martinez Varela, who had not yet assumed his post as ambassador to Egypt. [San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 19 Dec 79 pp 3, 38 PA]

GUATEMALA

ANTICOMMUNIST GUERRILLAS SET FIRE TO UNIVERSITY

PA211955 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1914 GMT 21 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 21 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--The clandestine Secret Anticommunist Army [ESA] today set fire to the Guatemalan national university at Quezaltenango, the nation's second largest city, because they considered it "subversive."

In a telephone call to reporters in the Guatemalan capital, ESA said it had attacked the university "because it is a base for operations of the guerrilla group, Armed People's Organization [ORPA], which has been operating in western Guatemala since the middle of this year.

The Guatemalan police confirmed the report of the fire, which caused damage this morning to the installations of the University of San Carlos in Quezaltenango. The police added that it had been perpetrated by a group of heavily armed men who later fled.

The ESA told reporters that meetings and other activities of ORPA guerrillas take place at Western National University Center [Centro Universitario Nacional de Occidente--CUNOC], for which reason they had decided to burn it this morning. Unidentified persons placed incendiary bombs at the CUNOC's main (?switchboard) and the flames spread rapidly throughout the entire building, burning laboratories, classrooms and the administrative offices.

The fire at the university was immediately condemned by spokesmen of the Superior University Council of Guatemala, who considered it an attack on culture by vandals. The spokesmen also denied that the national university has been converted into a guerrilla redoubt, as charged by the ESA.

The ESA affirmed that it was waging a fight to the death against subversion there. It added that the state university is under the control of communists dedicated to indoctrinating Guatemalan youth, for which reason it should be intervened by the government.

ORPA is one of the four guerrilla groups operating in Guatemala.

EL SALVADOR BORDER CLOSED TO STOP COFFEE RUST SPREAD

PA261832 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1726 GMT 26 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 26 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--Guatemala closed its border with El Salvador today after an outbreak of coffee rust was discovered in the plantations of (?Taloque), Guatemalan Agriculture Minister Edgar Ponciano Castillo announced. He added that Salvadoran products will be subjected to a quarantine. He indicated that the disease, which initially appeared on Nicaraguan coffee plantations, has spread to El Salvador, endangering Guatelama's coffee production, which is an essential sector of the country's economy.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR FROM TAIWAN--Jen-Yang Hsueh, new ambassador from Taiwan to Guatemala, presented copies of his credentials to Foreign Minister Rafael Castillo Valdez on 11 December. The date of his presentation of credentials to President Lucas Garcia will be announced later. [Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTROAMERICA in Spanish 12 Dec 79 p 3 PA]

HONDURAS

PAZ GARCIA REITERATES SUPPORT FOR APRIL ELECTIONS

PA231439 Paris AFP in Spanish 0339 GMT 22 Dec 79 PA

[By Juan Sierra Fonseca]

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 21 Dec (AFP)--The Honduran Armed Forces government, through Gen Policarpo Paz Garcia, today reiterated that the Hondurans will have completely free and honest elections in April 1980. Paz Garcia made the statement during the promotion ceremony of 19 new colonels, 19 lieutenant colonels and a large number of officers of other ranks.

Paz Garcia said that the armed forces have acquired a solemn commitment with the people to lead the country through an honest, clean, impartial and guaranteed electoral process. He added: The high military command, through me, reiterates this commitment and once again reaffirms its decision to become the loyal guarantor of the Honduran people's sovereign decision and to respect the results of the 20 April elections at all times.

Concerning the offensive which leftist organizations have launched in the past few days, the president of the Honduran government junta indicated that the conduct of the armed forces unquestionably discourages extremist minorities and frustrated politicians.

Paz Garcia compared the controversial political situation of the world to the situation of Honduras. He said that "in a world torn by different interests, ideologies and complexities and an America which is shaken by its search for definitions, it is natural that our development process would attract attention and that there would be questions about us in Central America." Let Latin America and the world know, he added, that Honduras [words indistinct] on the concert of nations which seek their development with [word indistinct] and wisdom.

The president of the Honduran military junta said that the Honduran Army is not only prepared to support peace, it is also ready to be the vanguard of the people in the defense of its way of life, its peaceful revolution and its territorial integrity.

NICARAGUA

PASTORA REPLACED AS DEPUTY INTERIOR MINISTER

PA270428 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0300 GMT 27 Dec 79 PA

[Text] During an event held today at the Interior Ministry to mark the anniversary of the 27 December attack on Chema Castillo's house, Commander Tomas Borge Martinez announced the appointment of guerrilla Commander Hugo Torres as the new deputy interior minister. Torres received his commander's stars from Borge, who also made the announcement of Torres' appointment. Borge did not indicate the position former Deputy Minister Pastora will hold.

BARRICADA QUESTIONS 'CONDITIONS' ATTACHED TO U.S. LOAN

PA232351 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 16 Dec 79 p 3 PA

[Editorial: "The $75 Million and Our Sovereignty"]

[Text] The U.S. Senate recently approved a $75-million loan to the Nicaraguan Government of National Reconstruction.

The loan carried certain warnings to us as borrowers, such as: "In the event that the presence of Cuban or Soviet troops is noted, the loan will be immediately withdrawn."

Our leaders have said on many occasions--and they so informed the U.S. congressmen who visited us recently--that our government will not accept a single dollar if it is given with conditions that threaten our national sovereignty, which was won by means of the struggle, effort and blood of our people.

As long as our country is not threatened with foreign military intervention in opposition to the interests of our fatherland, we Nicaraguans are capable of confronting our problems alone.

If we had no need of a Cuban or Soviet presence to defeat the genocidal Somozist guard--our own strength and the international solidarity of peoples was sufficient--we need them even less now that we have an organized army representing the will of our workers and peasants.

In closing, we can say that the conditions in the clauses of the loan agreement are hypothetical as far as the suspension of the loan and that our government, true to the interests of the Nicaraguan people, has firmly established national sovereignty.

Ramirez Replies

PA232354 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Dec 79 pp 1, 12 PA

[Text] "We see no restrictive conditions in the $75-million loan the U.S. Senate has just approved for Nicaragua. The amendment [as published] states merely that the Carter administration must make quarterly reports to the Congress on the application of the loan. If the Senate wishes to tell Carter this, it is an internal matter and their own affair."

These were the first statements made by Companero Sergio Ramirez, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, in commenting to this newspaper on the government's position regarding the "conditions" imposed on the $75-million loan recently approved by the Foreign Relations Committee of the U.S. Senate.

According to an AFP report, these conditions reflect concern within the U.S. Congress regarding the ideological persuasion of the Sandinist government. The conditions are, in addition to a requirement that the Carter administration remain informed [as published] regarding the applications of the loan, a stipulation that the loan will be automatically suspended in the event Soviet or Cuban troops are noted in this country.

The AFP report also notes the concern of some minority sectors in Congress and among the public who are asking Congress to have the supervisory control provided for in the amendment also include guarantees of freedom of expression and the functioning of private enterprise during the period of application of the approved loan.

Ramirez Comments

Commenting on this report, Ramirez described the Soviet amendment [as published]--the first one and the one which has been under consideration from the very beginning--as "superfluous." He said it contemplates a completely hypothetical situation, not only with respect to the suspension of the loan, but also because such a situation, in addition to being almost impossible, would affect the entire area and would transcend the limits of a simple loan.

He finally referred to the clause as "as superfluous" as if we had included a clause stipulating that the United States would not invade us as it has so often done in the past.

Concept of Political Stability

The approved amendment states that economic growth, political stability and the development of free institutions in Central America are concordant with the interests of the United States.

Ramirez Mercado's comments brought to mind the difference that exists between speakers of English and Spanish, as noted in the two countries' differing concepts of political stability. "The United States has always conceived of stability in Central America and the Caribbean within a geopolitical framework," he said.

"We believe popular support for the government and the Sandinist revolution is the only factor that can produce long-term stability, "Ramirez said.

Position of U.S. Companies

In an attempt to clarify statements made recently by Republican Senator Jacob Javits to the effect that there have been serious complaints by U.S. companies whose interests in Nicaragua have been expropriated without compensation by the Sandinists, we asked Companero Ramirez to comment on the government's position in this regard and the receptiveness shown by the nationalized foreign companies toward that position.

Ramirez said those rumors are part of the same old song played by a small sector of Congress and the public. He explained that all expropriated companies, particularly the mining companies, were covered by indemnification.

As far as banking, the Nicaraguan Government, as the public well knows, has not expropriated the banks. It has merely forbidden them, with every right, to take funds from the Nicaraguan public. [as published]

In the case of the mines, plans have been made to make compensation based on the respective audits and their recorded assets.

Finally, Ramirez noted that the government of national reconstruction has been willing to meet with all foreigners who have interests in Nicaragua and has already met with a large number who have shown much understanding and approval of the Nicaraguan Government's decisions. Some have even offered to cooperate with the government. Proof of this is that several U.S. and Canadian experts have continued to work in Nicaragua's mines.

COLUMNIST CRITICIZES U.S. POLICY TOWARD REVOLUTION

PA231837 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Dec 79 p 2 PA

[From "Mirador Semanal" column by Manuel Eugarrios: "The United States and Human Rights"]

[Text] Five months after the revolution and despite all the limitations and deficiencies inherent in taking over a country institutionally destroyed by Somozism, the gentlemen of the State Department and the trilateral commission are deeply concerned about the respect of human rights in Nicaragua. This cynicism is astonishing.

Those who installed the dictatorship and the Somozist guard were never moved in the past by the social and human genocide that the monster which they created committed for 45 years.

Imperialism--not the U.S. people who have many noble qualities--supported Somozist tyranny for almost five decades without caring in the least that the last traces of legality, justice and human rights were destroyed in Nicaragua.

It was not until a few months before the people's victory, when the inevitable overthrow of the dictatorship presented a threat to imperialism's balance of force in Central America, that the Carter government began to proclaim that a democracy was feasible in Nicaragua--remember the desperate efforts of the mediation commission-- and to openly attack the dictator. Nevertheless, placing its hopes in Pandora's box, it granted material and military aid to Somozism through satellite regimes until the last moment.

Now, with the beginning of imperialism's domestic election campaign, the State Department again turns its eyes toward our country and rejoices that the Sandinist revolution has established special courts which will try and protect the human rights of the poor little Somozist guards who brutally killed our people for almost half a century.

In short, imperialism's foreign policy becomes more cynical every time a new tenant controlled by the transnational companies and the big monopolies wants to occupy the White House.

OAS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION INVITED TO VISIT

PA221438 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Dec 79 PA

[Excerpt] (Leoncio Herdocia), director of international organizations of the Foreign Ministry, has said that the revolutionary government has invited the Inter-American Human Rights Commission to visit Nicaragua in the first few months of 1980. He attended the period of OAS sessions in Washington. On his return to Managua, he said that Nicaragua wants the whole world to know that human rights are respected in the country.

EL PUEBLO SCORES PANAMANIAN GUARD'S 'REPRESSION'

PA270226 Managua EL PUEBLO in Spanish 21 Dec 79 pp 2, 7 PA

[Article by Hugo Moreira: "The Panamanian National Guard Represses the People"]

[Text] The Panamanian people have begun mobilizing to protest the asylum granted to the genocidal thief Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. A student demonstration and the seizure of a study center were immediately repressed by the Panamanian National Guard. If the Panamanian National Guard acts this way against students staging a nationalist protest of solidarity with the Iranian people, what will it do when Panamanian workers and peasants begin rocking the power bases of the Panamanian ruling classes and imperialist domination? This is the same national guard that wants to teach the Sandinist police how to treat the people. Teargas, rubber bullets, beatings and blows: This is the treatment the Panamanian National Guard prescribed for the Panamanian student patriots who are unwilling to see Panama turned into a rats' nest. Ten persons hospitalized is a good average for these "facilitators" of relations between a bourgeois army and the people...

What difference do the Panamanian ruling classes find between Mohammad Reza Pahlavi and Anastasio Somoza? Both were puppets and associates of imperialism and owners of their respective countries' economies. Through the state apparatus, banks, enterprises, lands, industries and trade, the best of everything ended up in their hands. Both silenced their peoples' protests by bloodshed, torture, assassination, massacre, repression and even by bombing cities. They committed mass murders and genocide in what constituted a general confrontation between their repressive apparatuses and the people. Both traitors, condemned by the revolutionary justice of their respective peoples, will have to answer to them for their crimes and thefts.

Perhaps Panama has a small place reserved for Somoza on little Contadora Island. Why the special treatment for the shah?

Imperialism saw itself cornered by the Iranian students' impetuosity and Ayatollah Khomeyni's demagogy. So it ordered its colleagues in Panama "to keep the shah for a while." Their Panamanian colleagues in turn had no alternative but to receive the shah, even if this meant repressing the Panamanian people's just protests. Such is the respect a professional bourgeois army gives to its people when the dominant classes order it to attack.

The Panamanian protest constitutes a sovereign act by the people in defense of their sovereignty--not because asylum was granted to the shah, but because it was the United States rather than the people who decided on the asylum. This is as if Panama were a extension of U.S. territory. The Panamanian people know the asylum represents an act of submission to imperialism, and they surely will not let Americans get away with that impertinence. The United States got itself into trouble, just as it does everywhere, by supporting unpopular and genocidal dictatorships and legitimately earning the people's hatred.

The Panamanian authorities give "humanitarian reasons" and their interest in world peace as their pretext for granting asylum to the shah. But neither the Panamanian National Guard's actions, nor the gases, rubber bullets or blows dealt the Panamanian students constitute peaceful activities.

The Panamanian National Guard is protecting a genocidal criminal, a murderer, and it is repressing its people to protect a man condemned to death by his country's popular justice.

Let us hope this type of activity and these methods by the national guard are not included in the study and training programs provided to certain young armies. Once the first blow is dealt to the head of a student, it is hard for a bourgeois army to free itself of the temptation, the vocation or the repressive function determined by its class-oriented nature.

The Nicaraguan people cannot view the Panamanian National Guard's repression of the Panamanian people with either sympathy or apathy. In this situation, as in any other situation, the Nicaraguan people will side with the Panamanian people and oppose those who confront them.

SOMOZISTS' TRIALS ENTER 'EVIDENCE' PHASE

PA220236 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0134 GMT 21 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 20 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--According to Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge, a "retroactive" law should be issued making mere membership in the Somozist guard's repressive bodies a crime.

"The degree of participation in that army might be regarded either an extenuating or aggravating circumstance for the accused, as the case might be," he added.

The minister made this comment as two of the first trials of Somozist prisoners currently underway before "revolutionary tribunals" entered the evidence phase. On Monday, a team of five prosecutors began outlining the charges against eight defendants.

According to a spokesman for the prosecutor's office, after the depositions made by defendants Emilio Paez Bone--charged with being a national security office "informer"--and Alberto Prado Pena--accused of killing Sandinist Alberto Gaitan--both trials entered the evidence phase today.

He added that the trials may be interrupted this weekend because of the Christmas holidays, in which case they would resume on 2 January.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON GROUP OF 77 MEETING

Delegates Speeches

FL211120 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Dec 79 FL

[Text] Five speakers representing Egypt, Libya, Kenya, Uganda and Guinea addressed the afternoon plenary session of the fourth working day [20 December]--of the Group of 77 meeting that is being held at the Palace of Conventions.

For Egypt spoke the counsellor of its embassy in Vienna who recognized the importance of the speech by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. He also noted that inflation, a growing foreign debt and balance of payments deficits represent serious obstacles to the industrialization of developing countries.

The director of planning of the industry secretariat spoke on behalf of Libya. He explained the Libyan people's struggle against imperialism. He added that his people had gained experience from the Cuban people and their leader Fidel Castro.

For Kenya spoke the deputy foreign minister who said Fidel's speech had set an adequate guideline for the work at the Group of 77 meeting.

The Ugandan ambassador to Ethiopia, (Peter Otay), supported Fidel Castro's speech in the sense that the most fortunate underdeveloped countries should help the lesser developed insular and landlocked countries.

Lastly, Guinean Industry Minister Mamady Kaba spoke for his country. He criticized the transnational corporations, particularly noting that the transfer of technology should be done in such a manner that it does not accentuate economic dependence.

Visit to Paper Plant

FL211528 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 21 Dec 79 FL

[Text] Yesterday afternoon a large group of delegates to the Group of 77 ministerial meeting visited the Cuba-9 project located on the outskirts of the Pablo Noriega sugarcane mill in Havana Province. There they were briefed on this project being carried out by the Cuban Government in cooperation with United Nations development program, which contributes 4.5 million dollars to finance the project, and Finland and Canada which also participate in the project.

This experimental center produces pulp and paper from sugarcane bagasse. The center will cost about 15 million pesos and will begin operation in the first quarter of 1980. It will produce some 30 tons of paper per day as well as cellulose which is used in the manufacture of textiles.

Meeting Ends

FL211206 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 21 Dec 79 FL

[Excerpt] The Group of 77 ministerial meeting to prepare for the third conference of the UN Industrial Development Organization--UNIDO--ends today at the Palace of Conventions in Havana.

Important problems that are affecting the underdeveloped world have been examined at the meeting over the past 5 days. [as heard] The meeting also analyzed the proposal made by our commander in chief at the United Nations that a fund of no less than $300 billion be created to be invested in the underdeveloped countries.

Delegates from 74 countries and 10 specialized international organizations have concurred throughout the sessions this week in stressing the strategic importance of the problem of necessary financing for the industrialization of underdeveloped countries.

At its meeting in Lima, the Group of 77 established an action plan with a goal of achieving 25 percent participation of the underdeveloped countries in the world's industrial production for the year 2000. Therefore, the problem of fnancing has been stressted at the debates of this ministerial meeting. Current participation of the underdeveloped countries is no more than 9 percent of the world's industrial production.

MORE ON VISIT OF BAYBAKOV DELEGATION

Arrival in Santiago de Cuba

FL251743 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Dec 79 FL

[Text] The high-level Soviet delegation headed by Nikolay Baybakov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, chairman of the GOSPLAN and member of the CPSU Central Committee, yesterday arrived in the city of Santiago de Cuba to visit historic sites and ongoing construction projects. Today they will travel to Holguin Province.

At the Antonio Maceo International Airport the Soviet visitors were welcomed by Jose Ramon Balaguer, member of the PCC Central Committee and first party secretary in the province, as well as (Aleksandr Ablazov), vice consul of the Soviet Union in the eastern provinces. The Soviet leaders are being accompanied by Humberto Perez, member of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Central Planning Board, and Jose Lopez Moreno, vice president of the Council of Ministers and minister of construction, in their visit to the eastern provinces.

Harvester Factory Visit

FL261337 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Dec 79 FL

[Text] The 60th October Revolution Anniversary cane harvester factory, which was inaugurated in Holguin by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, was visited by Nikolay Baybakov, chairman of the USSR GOSPLAN, and members of the high-level Soviet delegation accompanying him. The Soviet visitors were briefed on the production of the KTP-1 harvesters, which free 50 men each from canecutting tasks. The Cmdr Pedro Soto Alba nickel plant and the industry it supplies in Punta Gorda were also toured by the USSR delegation accompanied by Humberto Perez, minister-president of the Central Planning Board, and Miguel Cano Blanco, first party secretary in Holguin Province, both members of the PCC Central Committee.

Arrival in Camaguey City

FL261751 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Dec 79 FL

[Text] Nikolay Baybakov, vice chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, chairman of the GOSPLAN and member of the CPSU Central Committee, has arrived in Camaguey City, where he was met at the Ignacio Agramonte International Airport by Diocles Torralba, member of the PCC Central Committee and Council of State and vice president of the Council of Ministers, as well as Lazaro Vazquez Garcia, first party secretary in the province, and Sugar Industry Minister Marcos Lage.

Baybakov heads a high-level Soviet delegation which arrived in Cuba on 20 December at the invitation of the Cuban Central Planning Board Directorate.

ZAMBIAN AMBASSADOR RECEIVED BY JOSE RAMON FERNANDEZ

FL251408 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Dec 79 FL

[Text] Lt Gen Peter Zuze, concurrent [concurrente] ambassador of the Republic of Zambia, who is visiting Havana to discuss matters of interest to the two governments, was received by Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Council of Ministers, with whom he exchanged views on education. During the fraternal talks, the educational systems used in the two countries were examined and experiences gained in the field were discussed. An exchange of experiences and cooperation in education between Cuba and Zambia were two of the topics discussed at the meeting.

REPORTAGE ON VISIT OF UNESCO DIRECTOR

Visit to Havana Office

FL212111 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2036 GMT 21 Dec 79 FL

[Text] UNESCO Director General Amadou Mahtar M'bow today visited his organization's offices located in Nuevo Vedado, Havana. The high UN official is visiting our country at the official invitation of the Cuban Government for the purpose of examining the cooperation existing between Cuba and UNESCO.

Vicentina Antuna, chairman of the Cuban UNESCO committee, welcomed Amadou Mahtar M'bow, who was accompanied by Alfonso de Silva, director of the Latin American and Caribbean division of that UN specialized organization. Present at Havana's UNESCO offices were Hermes Herrera, Cuban ambassador to UNESCO with headquarters in Paris; Rafael Rivas, regional coordinator for Latin America; and Dario Moreira, director of UNESCO's Havana offices.

Responding to Dr Vicentina Antuna's welcoming speech, Amadou Mahtar M'bow stated that the main objective of his current visit to Cuba is to strengthen the official ties between UNESCO and the Cuban committee as well as to satisfy a personal desire of visiting old, good Cuban friends. He also paid tribute to Juan Marinello, Cornelia Navarro, Maria Josefa Vidaurreta and Dr Martinez Morell, who contributed their talent and heart to the UNESCO principles. He praised the Cuban committee for the excellent work it is doing and shared Dr Antuna's view with respect to the importance that the cultural regional bureaus have, such as the one in Havana.

Elsewhere in his speech, M'bow referred to the upcoming UNESCO meeting to be held in Paris in 1980. In addition to next year's general conference, M'bow said the organization will have to prepare and adopt by the middle of the year the plan and budget for the next 3 years. In 1982, the UNESCO secretary general added, there will be an extraordinary conference to adopt a work plan for the years from 1984 to 1990, which will be the antepenultimate event before the century's end.

For her part Vicentina Antuna referred to the growing cooperation existing between the Cuban committee and the regional office, which has resulted in a more intense and fruitful work.

The UNESCO secretary general tomorrow will pay a visit to Armando Hart Davalos, member of the PCC Politburo and minister of culture.

Received by Fidel Castro

FL221326 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 22 Dec 79 FL

[Text] Yesterday Amadou Mahtar M'bow, director general of the UNESCO, was received by our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of Cuba and the nonalined movement. At the meeting, which took place in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, they discussed various topics, among them the principle matters dealing with education in the world, especially in Nicaragua.

Praises Teachers in Nicaragua

FL241359 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1313 GMT 24 Dec 79 FL

[Text] Presently there are more than 600 million illiterates in the world who could cease to be so by the century's end if there is a political will to achieve that goal, UNESCO Director General Amadou Mahtar M'bow has stated in Havana. The high UN official also said that just in Latin America there are some 45 million illiterates, an ill which could be eliminated in 20 years if there is a serious intention.

As an example he mentioned the literacy drive being conducted in Nicaragua, a country he visited prior to traveling to Cuba. He stressed that the example of the Cuban teachers teaching how to read and write in Nicaragua is a task which could be imitated by other countries.

The UNESCO director general also said that Cuba has worked very hard on the problem of education for nearly 20 years and was the first country in Latin America to undertake a drive against illiteracy. Likewise, he praised the original system of schools in the countryside created by Cuba where students study and work and gain a real knowledge of practical productive work. The high UN official stated that this type of school should be considered by other UNESCO member countries and adapted to their national realities.

During his stay in Cuba Amadou Mahtar M'bow held talks with Cuban councils of State and Ministers President Fidel Castro and participated in one of the work sessions of the Group of 77 ministerial meeting, which recently ended in this capital.

End of Visit, Departure

FL251338 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 25 Dec 79 FL

[Text] UNESCO Director General Amadou Mahtar M'bow has departed our country after a 3-day visit. Mahtar M'bow came to our country at the invitation of the Cuban Government. During his stay he was received by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the councils of State and Ministers and chairman of the nonalined countries movement, as well as other Cuban personalities.

Prior to departure Mahtar M'bow sent a message to Fidel which reads as follows: As I prepare to leave your noble land and generous Cuban people I wish to express to you once more my profound gratitude for the warm and friendly welcome and for your renewed support for the universal action of UNESCO. In addition, my conversations with your collaborators make it possible to predict an important increase not only in magnitude but in the nature of the cooperation between Cuba and UNESCO. My best wishes go for your personal well-being and the progress of the Cuban people.

REPORTAGE ON OPENING SESSION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Ratification of Castro UN Speech

FL261734 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Dec 79 FL

[Text] With a unanimous ratification of the speech by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the councils of State and Ministers and chairman of the nonalined countries movement, at the 34th UN General Assembly, the second ordinary meeting of the People's Government National Assembly began this morning at the Palace of Conventions. The proposal for the ratification of the speech, which declares Fidel's views as the official policy of the Republic of Cuba, was submitted by Blas Roca who was unable to attend the opening session due to illness. The National Assembly meeting is being chaired by its Vice President, Raul Roa.

After calling the roll, approving the minutes of the previous meeting and reading the agenda for this meeting, the participants heard Deputy Dalia Aleli Garcia read a report of the Culture and Arts Committee dealing with the bill entitled "Sierra Maestra Grand National Park." After hearing proposals modifying the bill and brief observations by Deputies Antonio Nunez Jimenez and Alfredo Guevara, the committee's report was unanimously approved.

A report by Deputy Aleida March on the assembly's international activities and two decree laws on the Council of State's activities were read and approved. The last two were submitted by Deputy Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque.

Appearance by Castro

FL261914 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Dec 79 FL

[Excerpts] The People's Government National Assembly second ordinary session opened this morning at the Palace of Conventions in Havana. Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the party Central Committee and president of the councils of State and Ministers, was on the dais at the session.

The next point taken was ratification of decrees-laws and resolutions of the Council of State which were ratified unanimously. This was followed by reading of the Council of State resolution by which Antonio Enrique Lusson and Jose Antonio Gutierrez Muniz were replaced in their functions as transportation and public health ministers by Comrades Guillermo Garcia Frias and Sergio del Valle Jimenez, respectively.

The assembly also was informed that the Council of State appointed Comrade Jose A. Lopez Moreno as vice president of the Council of Ministers, while remaining as minister of construction; and named Comrade Ramiro Valdes Menendez as minister of interior, holding this position simultaneously with the one he held as vice president of the Council of Ministers. All these actions were ratified by the deputies.

Juan Almeida, vice president of the Council of State, read the Council of State's rendering-of-accounts report which was approved unanimously by the People's Government National Assembly. Almeida also stressed the work of our commander in chief on our domestic policies for his constant and personal attention to affairs concerned with institutionalization of the state and his concern for all the problems of the country's economic, social, cultural and political life, as well as for social education in the principles of highest firmness that set an example to be followed by all revolutionaries. Almeida then added:

[Begin Almeida recording] The Council of State reaffirms its most resolute support for the policy that emanates from the daily performance of its president and expresses its deepest recognition of his exemplary work at the head of our state. Thank you very much. [applause] [end recording]

The People's Government National Assembly this afternoon will continue its session during which important documents will be examined and discussed.

Council of State Reports

FL261953 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1905 GMT 26 Dec 79 FL

[Excerpts] Juan Almeida, vice president of the Council of State and deputy to the National Assembly, read the Council of State's rendering-of-accounts report at this year's second ordinary session of the People's Government National Assembly.

The report contains a detailed accounting of all activities of the Council of State between sessions of the highest state organ. During this period of work, the report notes, the Council of State approved a total of 12 decrees-laws concerned with modifications to Article 32 of the law of pardons, modifications and additions to sections and articles of the social security code and recognition of the Nico Lopez higher party school. The school is recognized as a higher education center of a special type, the report points out.

Another Council of State decree-law [contained in the report] for the August to December period concerns the Republic of Cuba customs duty for commercial importations. Other [decrees-laws] include the grouping of local industrial enterprises so that they can be managed at the national level, and authorization to the Council of Ministers Executive Committee to issue a state enterprise regulation on administrative responsibilities for violations of traffic rules. The Revolutionary Armed Forces' social security law on administrative violations also was modified.

Another decree-law issued by the Council of State concerns the establishment of penalties for violations of regulations on consumer goods sales and distribution systems.

During the aforementioned period, [presumably since the last assembly session] the Council of State ratified 68 international treaties and pardoned 3,705 persons punished for crimes against the security of the state.

The report also refers to the nonalined countries sixth summit held in our country and its wise chairmanship by Comrade Fidel which contributed to the success of the conference and prestige of the nonalined countries movement. The report also recognizes Fidel's speech at the United Nations.

Approval of Draft Budget

FL270031 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Dec 79 FL

[Text] Today's activities of the People's Government National Assembly session being held at the Palace of Conventions in Havana concluded at 1905. Shortly before the conclusion, the 1980 state budget draft bill was approved. Earlier, during the afternoon session, the assembly had approved the draft bill on a single state economic development plan for 1980.

Election of Court Justice

FL270138 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Dec 79 FL

[Excerpt] During today's sessions, the People's Government National Assembly elected by ballot Comrade Elena Rosa del Castillo to fill the professional judgeship vacancy that exists at the Supreme People's Court, replacing Fernando Carlos Serrat who has retired. Rafael Perez Alvarez' lay judgeship at the Supreme People's Court was revoked by balloting.

LIONEL SOTO SCORES LACK OF LABOR DISCIPLINE

FL261259 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Dec 79 FL

[Text] If we waste the work force and what we produce with great efforts and later misuse it in the process of investment, the results will not be adequate and the rate of advance will decrease, PCC Secretariat member Lionel Soto stated in his closing remarks at Havana's commencement exercises for five classes of the National School of Management of the Economy. In his examination of the main difficulties currently being confronted by the national economy, the party leader stressed: With an optimum functioning of established state and legal mechanisms, greater progress could be made.

Elsewhere in his speech Lionel Soto referred to the need for revising the labor legislation in force in order to eliminate abnormalities which harm the country's economy. Among the serious abnormalities noted, the PCC Central Committee Secretariat member cited the example of nonsugarcane agriculture where the quotas are unrealistic because the workers can fulfill them in only 2 or 3 hours. Regarding this, Lionel Soto stated, there is a lack of supervision and control on the part of leaders in the agriculture sector, from the highest levels to the chief-of-lot level.

In another part of his speech Soto cited the example of the Antillana de Acero enterprise where the workers in the welding shop overfulfill goals by 314 percent with the system of wages commensurate with the quota and, due to this, earn 600 pesos over and above their wages. He pointed out the fact that by September of this year more than 15 million pesos had been wasted in the agriculture sector as a result of work disorganization, unrealized quotas and a general inefficiency observed in the fulfillment of the process of investments.

In closing, the party leader indicated that 1980 will be a tense [tenso] year and, referring to legislation to be enacted soon, he said it will make a rational adjustment of enterprises' payrolls possible.

RODRIGUEZ SPEAKS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY

FL251448 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Dec 79 FL

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the councils of State and Ministers, has made the closing remarks at a ceremony marking the 20th anniversary of the Foreign Ministry [MINREX]. In his speech Carlos Rafael Rodriguez noted that the emergence of the ministry marked the beginning of an international policy which is independent and worthy of Cuba. He recalled that the Secretariat of State, which was abolished on 23 December 1959, represented subordination to imperialism and in practice a state of submission to an opprobious past.

Making a historical examination of Cuban foreign policy, he noted that Commander in Chief Fidel Castro's speech at the United Nations in 1960 was the first great and profoundly revolutionary action with which Cuba responded to imperialism. Elsewhere in his speech Rodriguez referred to the various phases in our history during which Cuba has drawn world attention with its honorable foreign policy. This ministry became a militia center in the early days of the revolution's triumph, he stated. He added that its workers had never failed in volunteer work and in the daily risking of their own lives. In closing he said that in the past 20 years, since the creation of the Foreign Ministry, our diplomatic missions have been the targets in 95 attacks but the enemy was never able to frighten its workers.

EDITORIAL SCORES UPRISING ON UNION ISLAND

FL202130 Georgetown Guyana CHRONICLE in English 13 Dec 79 p 6 FL

[Unattributed editorial entitled: "Fragmentation Move Foiled"]

[Text] When Prime Minister Milton Cato with his St Vincent Labour Party [SLP] retained political power in the new state of St Vincent with a landslide victory at the polls, he consolidated the entrenchment of sovereignty in the Caribbean where people's power is on the march.

It was the ruling St Vincent Labour Party under Prime Minister Milton Cato which took St Vincent into independence a brief seven weeks ago. The St Vincent Labour Party had won a convincing victory at the polls at the general elections in 1974 and its annihilating triumph which resulted in the return to power of the SLP was the people's way of reaffirming their approval of the ruling party's policies.

Now there came this impudent interrogation of the people's decision in the form of an armed rebellion on Union Island in the Grenadines. This attempt to fragment yet another Caribbean Community state, which only so recently secured its independence has been quickly crushed.

In addition to our head of government, nine Caribbean governments have also condemned the attempts to dismember St Vincent.

This attempt to violate the territorial integrity of St Vincent has had to be met with the declaration of a state of emergency, the imposition of a curfew.

It has been noted that this aggression on the territorial integrity of our CARICOM partner drew no word of condemnation from the MIRROR or its parent party nor from its theologically adulterous crony, the STANDARD, all of them being habitually supporters of counter-revolutionary conspiracies to overthrow the Guyana Government by violence.

While remaining silent on the internal attack on St Vincent, they found voice to criticise the security training exercises which the Guyana Government set in motion. Let their silence shame them, and let their nervousness over the security exercises expose their guilt-complex and remind them and their collaborators that the socialist revolution in Guyana has the resources to defend itself.

Island Ills Well Known

FL202125 Georgetown Guyana CHRONICLE in English 12 Dec 79 p 6 FL

[Unattributed commentary entitled: "Bumba Points to Ills of Union Island"]

[Text] St Vincent's Union Island is still high up in the news since last week's abortive rebellion by Lennox "Bumba" Charles and his Rasta brethren. More significant information has come to hand in the form of an eight-page magazine published a month before the uprising which was quickly crushed by St Vincent police.

In this magazine, Bumba and his followers detailed their grouses and set out their demands. The magazine is titled "Union I-Land" (the word I-Land being spelt without an s) unity for national progress. [as published]

The publication attacks foreign control of the island's economy--which is largely based on fishing.

It criticises the attitude towards the island by the central administration in St. Vincent. It called for local control of Union Island's land and sea resources and for social and economic development on the island. The publication includes several crude drawings. It supported self-government for Union Island.

Outright Secession. That is what Bumba and his Rasta brethren opted for. This, they claimed, was the only way Union Islanders could get meaningful social and economic development. Bumba, who is reported to be in his twenties, said Union Islanders were being exploited by foreign developers who kept wages low and failed to plough back profits into social development programmes.

The magazine said: "We need what we don't have--hospital, national council, recreation ground, good roads, local industries, proper educational institutions, fire protection, long-term agricultural scheme, fresh water plant, fenced cemetery, a postbox at Ashton."

Although, according to government officials, the little island is not suitable for large-scale agricultural projects, they concede that fishing resources, just off the shore are abundant.

The Rasta's magazine estimates that more than 20,000 pounds of seafood is landed each week. The catch usually includes lobsters, a delicacy which fetches high prices in Caribbean tourist hotels.

Union Island fishermen say they are at a disadvantage because the foreigners have bigger boats and more up-to-date fishing equipments. Many among Union Island's population of 4,000 are employed by foreign businessmen.

Bumba and his Rasta rebels have accused the central government of largely ignoring Union Island. This is an echo of a now familiar claim heard around the Caribbean. That is what the people on Anguilla said of the St. Kitts administration and it was repeated by the sister island Nevis. That is what political groups in Trinidad's sister island Tobago is saying about the Eric Williams administration. That is what Barbuda, ward island of Antigua is saying too.

The Rasta magazine says that "It is only by total secession from St. Vincent's political, cultural and economic choke that the Union I-Land people can upgrade the political, cultural and economic needs of our island Union I-Land." (Union Island is, of course, spelt without an s).

This very open publication means obviously that weeks before the secessionist attempt the administration [in] Kingstown, St. Vincent's capital, ought to have been aware of what was brewing. In fact Bumba had been picked up for questioning by the police on a tip-off that he was accumulating arms. He was released. They found nothing. But according to the latest reports, when the fifty-man rebel force went into action, they were armed with a collection of revolvers and old-fashioned rifles, including .303s.

Bumba Charles is still at large up to this morning. What is worrying the security men is whether Bumba is not planning to play another card from his hide-out.

The Rasta group could hardly have anticipated the swift and crushing defeat of their desperate secession plans. But their magazine Union I-Land, published a month before, had this rather significant warning: "Getting rid of Bumba does not stop Union I-Land people revolution for the people's ownership and control. The struggle goes on with and without Bumba."

Rather relevant on this situation is singer Eddie Hooper's lyrics: "Take warning. You better take warning. You better come good."